



STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR
PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KEVIN W. CONCANNON, DIRECTOR

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DHS Director Concannon to Retire

DES MOINES, Iowa – Department of Human Services Director Kevin Concannon announced Wednesday that he will retire in June after five years as director of Iowa's largest state agency.

Concannon, who had comparable positions in both Oregon and Maine, said he was especially pleased with his tenure in Iowa.

"It has been a special honor and personally and professionally the most satisfying period in my career to have held these responsibilities in Iowa," Concannon said in a note to staff.

"With all of you in DHS, many countless important and critically needed services and supports are provided to nearly one million Iowans each year," he said.

The DHS administers many programs for people with limited incomes, including Medicaid, food assistance, welfare, childcare assistance, disaster recovery grants, and *hawk-i*, the state's child health insurance program. It also provides child protective services, assists in the administration of mental health services, and operates the Child Support Recovery Unit. The agency has offices in all 99 counties.

The DHS also administers eight institutions, including two resource centers for people with mental retardation at Glenwood and Woodward, four mental health institutes in Clarinda, Mount Pleasant, Independence, and Cherokee, and two juvenile facilities in Eldora and Toledo. In addition, the DHS administers the Civil Commitment Unit for Sexual Offenders in Cherokee.

A successor will be chosen by Gov. Chet Culver, who said, "Director Concannon is one of the finest directors of human services in the entire country and I want to personally thank him for his service to the state of Iowa.

"He has received national recognition for his work here in Iowa and should be proud of what he has been able to accomplish as the Iowa Director of Human Services over the last five years. Understandably, Kevin wanted to return home to spend more time with his family, and I wish him all the best."

Concannon said three of his four sons, and eight grandchildren, live in the Northeast part of the country. He said he plans to retire to his home in Maine.

Concannon has received numerous honors, including last year a Lifetime Achievement award from the American Public Human Services Association.

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Editors: Director Concannon will be available for interviews at 11 a.m. May 1 in the Cabinet Room, 5th floor of the Hoover State Office Building.